

Montana Driver Education and Training

Strategies for Sharing the Road with Other Users



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Standards and Benchmarks

1. Laws and Highway System

- a. know the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's manual
- b. understand the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's manual
- c. consistently demonstrate knowledge and understanding by responsible adherence to highway transportation system traffic laws and control devices

2. Responsibility

- a. recognize the importance of making safe and responsible decisions for owning and operating a vehicle
- b. demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions while operating a motor vehicle
- c. consistently display respect for other users of the highway transportation system
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to responsible driving

3. Visual Skills

- a. know proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- b. communicate and explain proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- c. demonstrate the use of proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to proper visual skills

4. Vehicle Control

- a. demonstrate smooth, safe and efficient operation of a motor vehicle
- b. develop habits and attitudes relative to safe, efficient and smooth vehicle operation.



Standards and Benchmarks

5. Communication

- a. consistently communicate their driving intentions (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals)
- b. adjust their driver behavior based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- c. adjust communication (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals) based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- d. develop habits and attitudes relative to effective communication

6. Risk Management

- a. understand driver risk-management principles
- b. demonstrate driver risk-management strategies
- c. develop driver risk-management habits and attitudes

7. Lifelong Learning

- a. understand past, present and future vehicle and roadway design, and driving cultures
- c. understand benefits of a lifelong learning approach to driving
- e. identify opportunities for lifelong education in driving

8. Driving Experience

- a. acquire at least the minimum number of BTW hours over at least the minimum number of days, as required by law, with a Montana approved driver education instructor
- b. be encouraged to acquire additional BTW driving experience with their parent or guardian's assistance in a variety of driving situations (i.e., night, adverse weather, gravel road, etc.).



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Sharing the Road Introduction

SHARE
THE
ROAD

- Montana law requires motorists to operate their vehicles in a careful and prudent manner without endangering the life, limb, property or other rights of people entitled to use the highways
- A driver's view to the front and sides of the vehicle can not be blocked by anything loaded in or on the vehicle
- A maximum of three people may be in the front seat



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Sharing the Road Introduction

SHARE
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- Drivers must be aware of who is sharing the road with them
 - the amount of traffic
 - the type of traffic (trucks, motorcyclists, buses, bicyclists, etc.)



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



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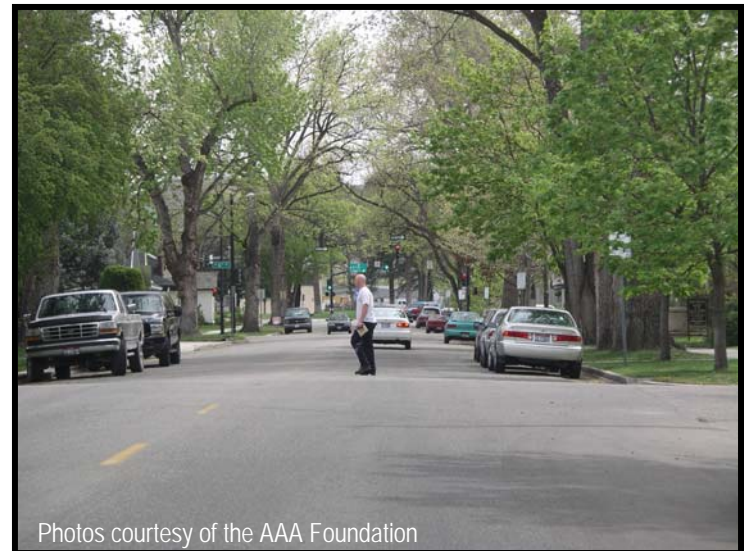


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PEDESTRIANS



- In Montana, pedestrian crashes account for six percent of all fatal crashes
- Pedestrian safety is a serious issue
- In any collision, the pedestrian loses, regardless of who had the right of way



Photos courtesy of the AAA Foundation



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PEDESTRIANS



The most common pedestrian action when they are hit



- Crossing at an intersection or crosswalk
- Crossing, walking, or standing in the road
- Working on, or pushing a vehicle in the road
- Playing or darting into the road



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PEDESTRIANS



- Left-turning vehicles are more often involved in pedestrian accidents than right-turning vehicles, partly because drivers do not search thoroughly, and are not able to see pedestrians to the left as well



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

In this traffic scene, who has the right of way?



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Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



- Know pedestrians have the right of way
- Expect pedestrians anytime, anywhere
- Know that pedestrians can be very hard to see - especially in bad weather or at night



Stop for pedestrians crossing the street, even if they are not in a marked crosswalk



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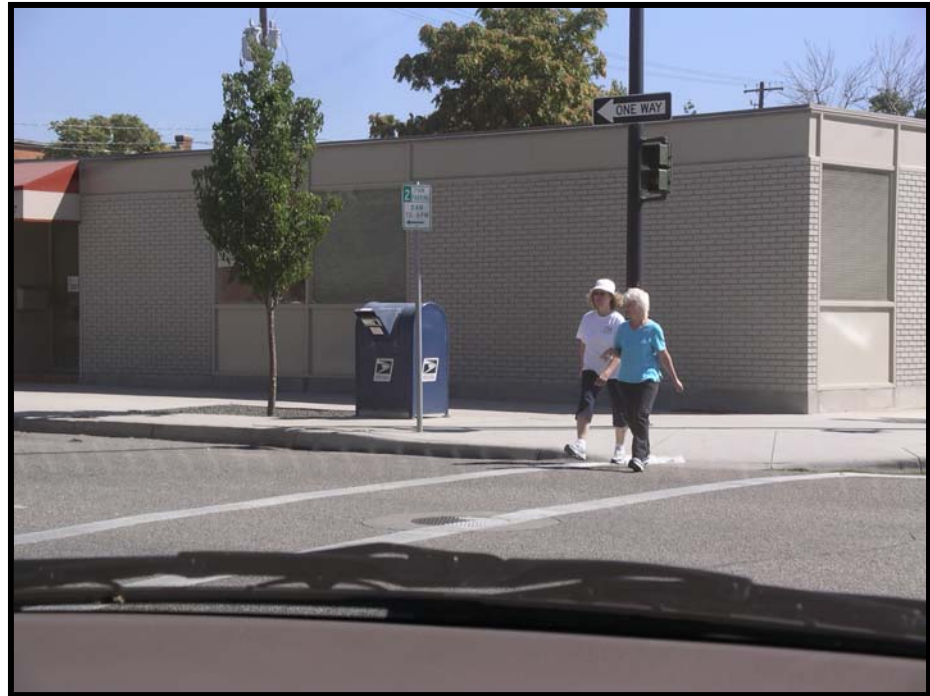
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Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



- Stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop
- Be aware that cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross—do not pass if there is any doubt

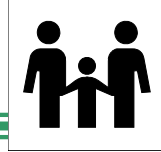


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Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



- Pedestrians may not look for or see traffic
- Expect unpredictable actions
- When watching for a “gap” in traffic to make a turn, a pedestrian may have moved into the intended path of travel.
- Search **left** then **right**, then **straight ahead** and **left again** before proceeding.
- In locations where children are active—expect children to dart into the street at any time



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Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



- Stop for anyone crossing the street on foot
- Watch for walkers, joggers, and runners
- Avoid using the horn
- Watch for seniors or people in wheelchairs at intersections
- Stop for a pedestrian with a white cane or guide dog

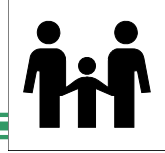


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Good Habits as a Pedestrian



- We are all pedestrians and as pedestrians, we have a responsibility to use the streets safely
- Be predictable
- Use sidewalks where provided—where no sidewalks are provided, it is usually safer to walk facing road traffic
- Make it easy for drivers to see pedestrians
- Expect that drivers will not be watching for pedestrians



Is this pedestrian using good habits while crossing the street?



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Sharing the Road With Two- and Three-Wheeled Riders



- Two-and three-wheeled modes of transportation are more difficult to see in the traffic mix
- Like car drivers, these users have certain rights and always have the same responsibility for operating their choice of transportation with care and safety



Photo courtesy of the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and the New York Bicycling Coalition



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Bicycles are operated by riders of all ages who are responsible for knowing the rules of the road



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Many riders are young and may not know or understand the rules of the road
- Children will ride their bicycles on sidewalks and in the road



Photo source: MT Department of Transportation



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Bicycles can be used for recreation or as a mode of transportation to school or work
- Many jurisdictions have bicycle lanes for the exclusive use of bicyclists
- Even though required by law, bicycles may not have a headlight or reflectors, seeing them at night can be difficult



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- On most roadways, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users
- Drivers must yield the right of way to a bicyclist just as they would to another vehicle
- Bicyclists are required to travel in the same direction as vehicles



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Just as the wind produced by a passing tractor-trailer can pull a car off course, so too can a passing vehicle cause a cyclist to swerve out of control
- When following bicyclists, give them plenty of room and be prepared to stop quickly



Photos courtesy of the AAA Foundation



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- After parking and before opening vehicle doors, first check for bicyclists



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Experienced bicyclists can ride 20-25 mph and may be closer than you think



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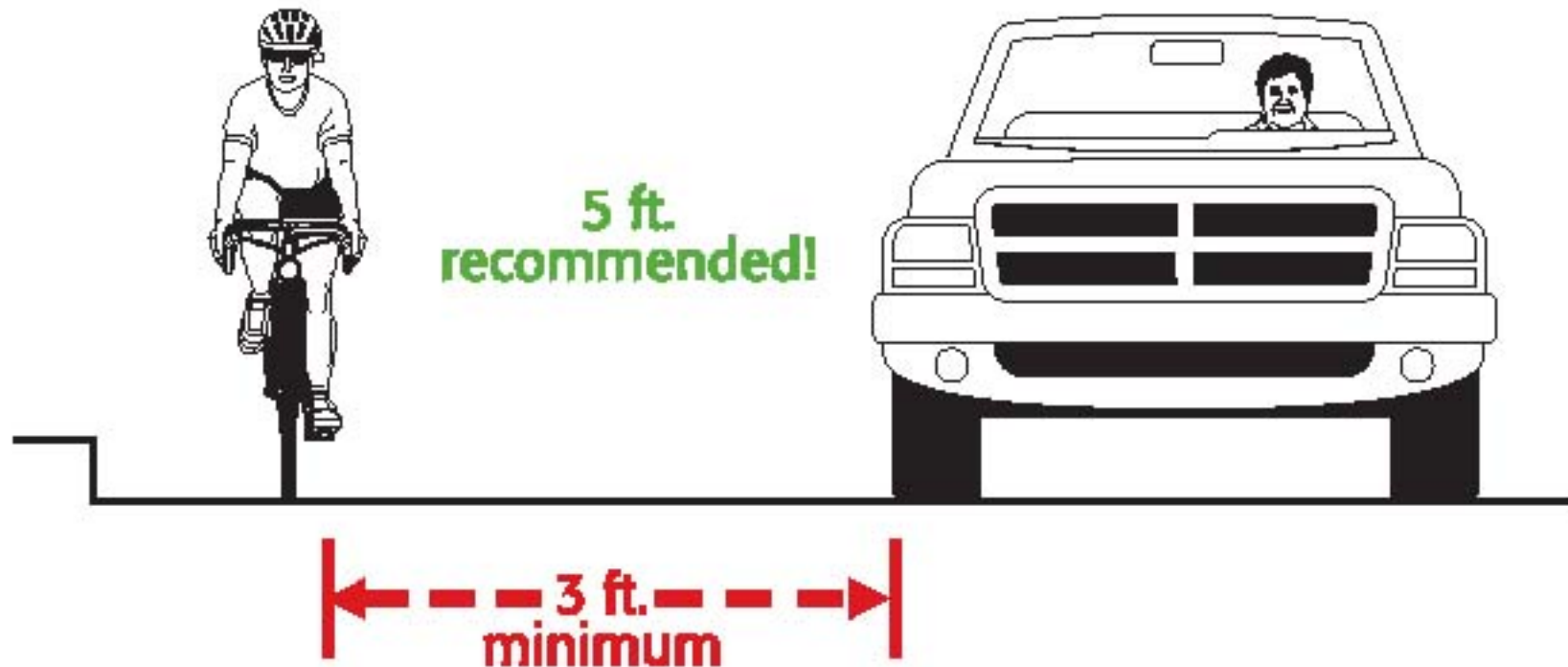
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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



**When passing a bicycle rider leave
at least three feet of passing space**



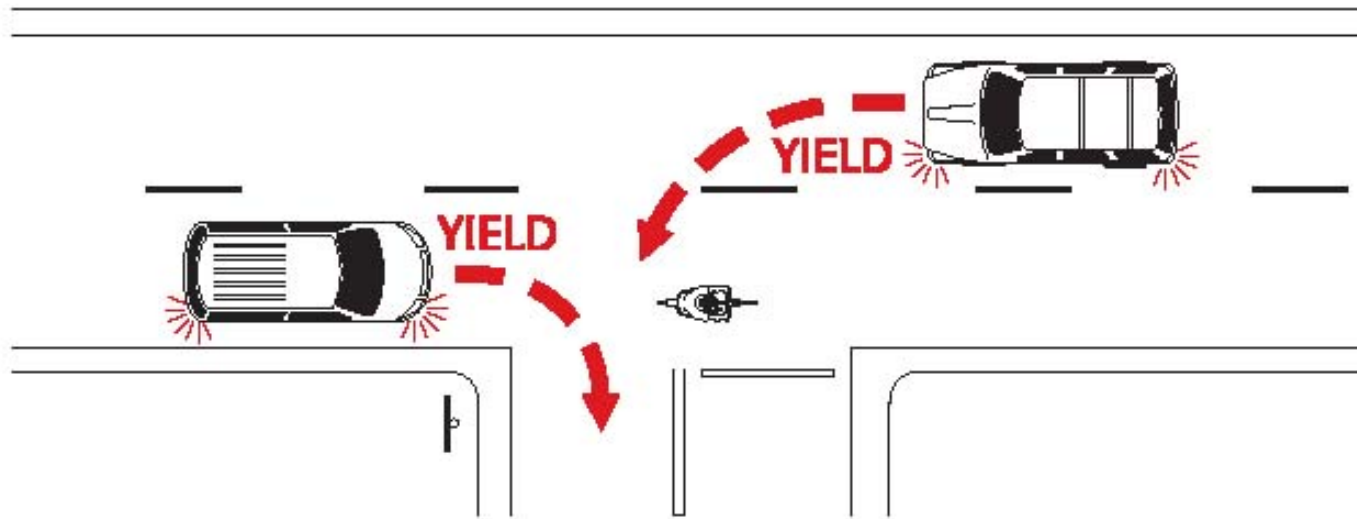
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Graphic courtesy of the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee New York Bicycling Coalition



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Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



When turning left and a bicyclist is entering the intersection from the opposite direction, wait for the bicyclist to pass before making the turn



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Graphic courtesy of the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
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Bicyclists Responsibilities



Predict the possible hazards that these irresponsible young bicyclists may not see



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Sharing the Road with Mopeds



- Mopeds are typically classified as a bicycle and can be a desirable form of transportation for those who want some power assistance with their pedals not available with a bicycle
- Mopeds have pedals that must be used to gain momentum, then the low-powered engine can kick in and supply some power



Moped riders have the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users



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Sharing the Road with Mopeds



- Most states require an operator's license
- A moped's top speed is 30-35 mph; if they went faster they would then be classified as a motorcycle
- They are typically restricted from high-speed roadways
- Use the same good share the road driving habits when sharing the road with mopeds



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Sharing the Road with Scooters



- Scooters are no longer just small 50cc engine vehicles with a top speed of 25 mph
- Scooters today can have 600cc engines with a top speed of over 100 mph and can cost over \$8,000
- Scooters with a 200cc engine can reach 60 mph
- The tires are smaller than a motorcycle's
- They typically weigh less than a motorcycle
- Scooters are fuel-efficient—getting up to 100 mpg



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation



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Sharing the Road with Scooters



- With their step through style, they are considered easier to ride than a motorcycle
- People of all ages ride scooters—from teenagers to grandparents
- Many do not get rider training and may not know how to handle these machines safely
- Use reduced risk driving behaviors when sharing the road with these two-wheeled vehicles



Should scooter riders be required to wear a helmet?



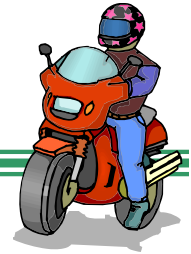
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Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- When motorcycles and other vehicles collide, it is usually the other (non-motorcycle) driver who violates the motorcyclist's right of way
- Over two-thirds of fatal motorcycle crashes involve a motorcycle and another vehicle



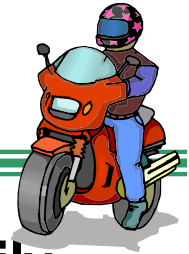
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Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Motorcycles and their riders are smaller in size and are easily hidden and harder to see in the traffic mix
- Research shows drivers who also ride motorcycles and those with family members or close friends who ride are more likely to observe motorcyclists and less likely to collide with them
- This indicates that drivers can see motorcyclists, whom they might otherwise overlook, if they mentally train themselves to do so



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Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



A vehicle corner post can hide a car, motorcyclist or a pedestrian

- The visual problem is compounded by a variety of visual limitations confronting drivers
- Automobiles have obstructions and blind spots that can obscure or hide a motorcycle and rider—such as door pillars, passengers' heads, and areas not visible in the mirrors



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Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Other conditions affecting the vehicle—such as precipitation, glare, and cargo—can further impair a driver's view and obscure motorcyclists
- Objects and environmental factors beyond the vehicle, including other vehicles, roadside objects, and light patterns can make it more difficult for drivers to identify motorcyclists in traffic



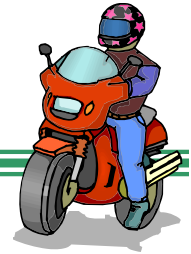
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Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Traditional driver distractions, such as passengers, eating, smoking, reading, shaving, applying make-up, and managing audio systems, continue to be a problem and new distractions emerging can add to the problem
- Portable telephones and other communication devices and features such as in-vehicle navigation systems, which divert more attention inside the car, may be increasingly distracting to drivers



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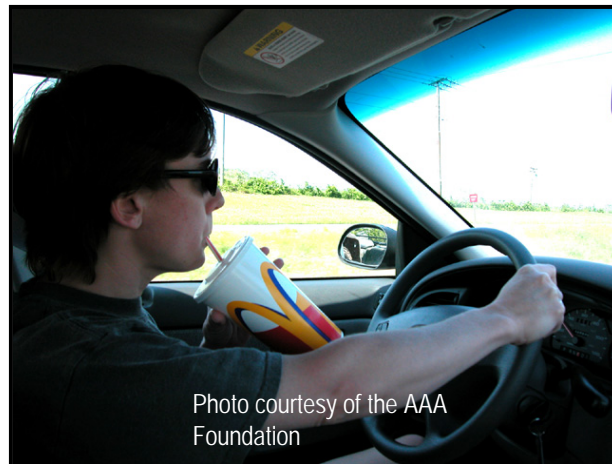
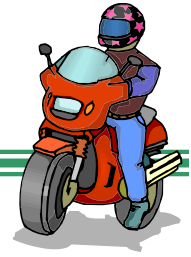


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Foundation



Drivers are more likely to be involved in an collision with a motorcycle when:



Should motorcyclist be required to wear bright gear like this motorcyclist?

- Making a left turn
- A motorcyclist is riding in other drivers' blind spots
- There are hazardous road conditions such as potholes, wet leaves, railroad tracks, painted lines when wet
- Other obstructions may force a motorcyclist to take an unexpected action
- Sport utility vehicles, delivery vans, and large trucks have an obstructed line of sight that blocks motorcyclists from the driver's view



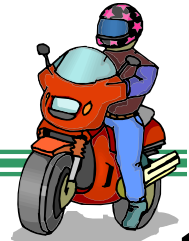
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Understanding Motorcyclists' Riding Challenges



- Drivers can improve safety by understanding the conditions that can affect where and how motorcyclists ride
- Motorcycles may be forced from their position on the road by strong winds or a rough road surface
- Turn signals are not self-canceling on most motorcycles and the rider may forget to cancel them
- Weather can cause the surface to have less traction and the rider may need to ride in different lane positions to gain best traction



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Understanding Motorcyclists' Riding Challenges



- Passengers can distract the rider
- If the rider is not wearing warm protective gear during colder temperatures, the rider can be affected by hypothermia and be less aware of surroundings
- If the rider does not have a helmet, the eyes can be affected by wind and debris
- Watch for clues, such as operators or passengers turning their heads to look



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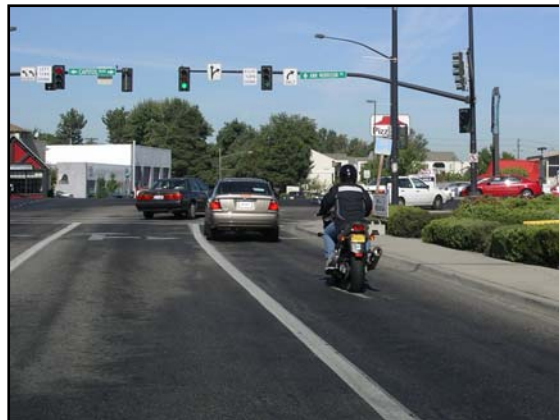
Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the privileges of any vehicle on the roadway - give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel
- Look out at intersections when a motorcyclist may be making a left turn, and when a motorcyclist may be changing lanes
- Watch for clues the rider may have forgotten to cancel the turn signal
- Clearly signal intentions
- Never tailgate
- Switch to low beam when approaching
- Give extra following distance when weather and/or road conditions can limit visibility or traction
- Be prepared for the motorcyclist to take an evasive maneuver to avoid road debris or road conditions that are not a problem for other motorists



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What is a Segway®?



The Segway® Human Transporter (HT) is a new type of two-wheel transportation



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Montana Code Annotated CA 61-1-101.
Definitions "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a device that has two nontandem wheels, is self-balancing, and is designed to transport only one person with an electric propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to 12 ½ mph

Segways® performs as a self-balancing personal transportation designed to go anywhere and for the operator to feel, look, and act like a pedestrian

- **Segways® weigh about 83 pounds**
- **Most have a maximum speed of less than 15 mph—some models can now travel up to 30 mph**



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Segways®



- Segways® are finding use among the military, law enforcement, and the general public
- States and cities are looking at the use of Segways® —if and how they can be safely used on public sidewalks
- It has been approved for use in many states on sidewalks
- San Francisco and other cities are banning them from sidewalks

